

Little League back in action **PAGE 6**

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**TUESDAY**



**INSIDE**  
*today*



Explo court  
dates moved to  
September

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ConnocoPhillips  
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back

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Don't  
go

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**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



**88**  
HIGH

**66**  
LOW

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some clouds. Winds  
light and variable.

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## CITY GOVERNEMENT

# City looking into electronic meter reading

Council votes to seek proposals on advanced infrastructure system

**MICHELLE BATES**  
michelle@press-herald.com

**BRUCE FRANKLIN**  
bruce@press-herald.com

The City of Minden is looking towards the future

in upgrading its electric and water meter reading system.

After a unanimous vote during Monday's city council meeting, the council agreed to ask for requests for proposals on the system.

In an interview Monday, Mayor Tommy Davis says the system would provide more accurate readings and add consistency to the system. "Everybody's meter



**DAVIS**

would be read on a consistent time each month," he said. "Right now, we do it by hand, so depending on the weather, sometimes people's bills have been 28 days long, some have been as high as 39 days. That's an extreme, but it's happened. Cut-ons and cut-offs would be much more streamlined.

"It's an automatic meter

reading system for water and electric meters," he continued. "It's really more like a management system. Water meters and electric (meters) would be changed out."

All the readings from each meter would go directly to a software system that tracks water and

See **CITY**, Page 3

## EDUCATION

# School resource officers top board meeting

Future of Harper Elementary remains in limbo

**MICHELLE BATES**  
michelle@press-herald.com

An agreement between the Webster Parish School Board and the City of Minden as well as indecision on the situation with J.E. Harper Elementary School topped Monday's school board meeting agenda.

Board members discussed the annual school resource officer agreement between the City of Minden and the school board after Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd and Mayor Carroll Breaux approached the board. They asked that they be included in that agreement, with the chief saying his SRO performs the same duties as the two that cover Minden schools.



**BREAUX**

"The north end of the parish also has an SRO officer, and if you're going to pay for two officers in Minden, is it not right to pay for an SRO in Springhill?" Lynd asked board members. "Springhill also serves Sarepta, Cotton Valley and Shongaloo. We serve four communities."

While the Springhill Police Department serves within the corporate limits of Springhill, their SRO officer protects students from these other three communities because they are bussed in to Springhill schools.

Mayor Carroll Breaux

See **EDUCATION**, Page 2

**“BEING A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR GIVES ME THE ADVANTAGE TO LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES EARLY ON AND GROW FROM THEM.”**  
JOSHUA SPECHT, OWNER OF GORILLA TECH & REPAIR



Joshua Specht stands in front of Gorilla Tech & Repair located at 727 Main Street in downtown Minden. File Photo

# SURVIVING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL JUNGLE

18-year-old Minden business owner proves experience is best teacher

It's summer, which means that many teens are home to enjoy their summer break. Others are just now picking a career. But some teens let the career choose them and have already dived into the working world head first. A local 18-year-old is one of these up and comers who is helping prove north-west Louisiana's reputation as a hotbed for startups and entrepreneurs.

Joshua Specht is part owner and manager of Gorilla Tech and Repair. The service store based in downtown Minden focuses on small electronics — Apple or Android phones and tablets, computers, gaming consoles, TVs, etc. — and also sells mobile accessories.

"I have always been curious of how it

**BIZ.**  
MAGAZINE

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See **SPECHT**, Page 3

## MINDEN CRIME

# Drug charges land man in jail

**MICHELLE BATES**  
michelle@press-herald.com

A Minden man was arrested on felony possession charges after he seemingly fled police.

Edwin James Shuler, 38, of the 600 block of McIntyre Street, was arrested Wednesday, May 27, and charged with possession of Schedule I CDS (marijuana — third offense), and cited



**SHULER**

See **CRIME**, Page 3

## BLOOD DRIVE

# Minden Fire dept. wins contest

**BRUCE FRANKLIN**  
bruce@press-herald.com

The Minden Fire Department hosed out the Minden Police Department and Webster Parish Sheriff's Office during the "Cuffs and Hoses" blood drive Friday.

LifeShare Blood Centers representative Mary Jo Henderson said a total of 59 units were collected with the Minden Fire Department bringing in the most donors. WPSO came in a close second.

See **BLOOD**, Page 3

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CONTINUING COVERAGE | CAMP MINDEN EXPLOSION

## Explo court dates moved to September

**MICHELLE BATES**  
[michelle@press-herald.com](mailto:michelle@press-herald.com)

Court dates for the three remaining Explo officials indicted on charges related to the Camp Minden explosion in 2012 have been moved again.

According to court documents, the court date for David Fincher, 65, of Burns, Tennessee, and David Smith, 57, of Winchester, Kentucky, has been continued until Monday, Sept. 28. The court date for the remaining defendant, William Terry Wright, 59, of Bossier City, will be Monday, Oct. 26.

The dates are for hearings in front of 26th Judicial District Judges Mike Craig and Mike Nerren on three different issues: a



**FINCHER**



**SMITH**



**WRIGHT**

motion to quash, a motion to change venue and a motion for a bill of particulars.

Court documents show the motion to quash for all three defendants is one to suppress based on their argument the M6 material is not an “explosive” and therefore not subject to all the regulations.

The motion to change venue for all three defendants was filed because they believe they “cannot receive a fair trial because since the alleged incident the local media has published numerous articles and news coverage about this incident in a highly inflammatory nature,” the motion reads in part.

The motion regarding the bill of particulars – a more specific bill of information on all the charges – asks the state (i.e. District Attorney Schuyler Marvin) to “furnish a bill of particulars identifying those items provided in discovery the State alleges are explosive materials that were unlawfully stored.”

The defense goes on to ask for a bill of particulars on the charges of explosive materials that were not properly marked, properly inventoried and a bill of particulars “stating whether scientific tests

have been conducted on any of the alleged explosive material so identified...”

Reasons for the continuance of the hearings were not released in the court documents; however, in a previous edition of the Minden Press-Herald, Marvin says trying to get all the expert witnesses together on one date is proving to be difficult.

“It’s complicated enough trying to get our experts from the Army and the ATF and get them all to agree to be here on a certain date,” Marvin said in April. “We’re doing all that now, and it’s a complicated case.”

The above named defendants were charged with unlawful storage of explosives, criminal conspiracy to commit unlawful storage of explosives, reckless storage of explosives, criminal conspiracy to commit reckless storage of explosives, failure to obtain magazine license, criminal conspiracy to commit failure to obtain magazine license, failure to properly mark explosive material, criminal conspiracy to commit failure to properly mark explosive material, failure to keep accurate inventory and criminal conspiracy to commit failure to keep



**Following an explosion at Camp Minden in 2012, Louisiana State Police discovered millions of pounds of M6 propellant in cardboard boxes located outside where it could be affected by rain and weather.** Courtesy Photo

accurate inventory.

Three other defendants, Lionel Koons, Todd Dietrich and Michael Kile all pled guilty to misdemeanor charges.

Dietrich pled guilty to reckless handling of explosives. He was fined \$1,000 plus court costs, must pay restitution of \$1,000 to the Louisiana State Police and must serve two years active supervised probation. He was sentenced

August 23, 2013.

Koons pled guilty to careless handling of explosives. He was fined \$1,000 plus \$1,000 in restitution to the state police and two years active supervised probation. He was sentenced August 23, 2013.

Kile pled guilty to careless use of explosives. He must pay \$1,000 fine plus \$1,000 to offset the cost of prosecution, placed on supervised probation but

will consider unsupervised probation after eight months. He was sentenced Oct. 25, 2013.

All three entered guilty pleas in exchange for the misdemeanor charges and that they testify against Fincher, Smith and Wright. The three are also prohibited from employment by any company that has anything to do with explosives.

## EDUCATION

*Continued from page 1*

says the city pays roughly \$59,000, including salary and benefits, for Officer Johnny Coleman, a 34-year veteran of the Springhill Police Department.

“I would respectfully ask that the City of Springhill be given due consideration, the same as you’ve given the City of Minden, if you agree to this cooperative endeavor agreement,” Breaux said.

Lynd says Coleman serves North Webster High School, Brown Middle School and goes to Sarepta when needed. He does fill in with the police department during the summer, the chief says.

Board member Jerry Lott says Lakeside and Doyline do not have SROs, so what’s to be done about them?

Business and Finance Director Crevonne Odom says the SROs are funded through the general fund.

On a motion made by Malachi Ridgel, seconded by Brandon Edens, it was decided to table the issue

until the June 29 meeting. Springhill will submit an agreement similar to Minden’s at the next meeting.

A recommendation still has not been made regarding Harper Elementary. Linda Kinsey, buildings and maintenance committee chair, says she wants to hear from the public as well on the recommendation that will be made. However, the one option discussed the most was to move the kindergarten and first grade students to J.A. Phillips Middle School and build a wing onto Webster Junior High School to house the sixth grade students.

According to figures discussed, it would cost roughly \$6 million for this option rather than \$25 million to combine E.S. Richardson and J.L. Jones Elementaries and build a new school.

Perry Watson, architect with Yeager, Watson and Associates Inc. suggested the first option would better meet the fire marshal’s requirements, saying so much room has to be allotted per student per square foot, plus the logistics seemed to work better.

“The information that was presented earlier centered around a common sense approach based on funding capabilities and chance of success at the polls,” he said. “We looked at the situation at Harper and the amount of work we would need to put into the school, along with additions, just didn’t make a whole lot of sense – because you would still have the same inherent problems. We looked at the possibilities of taking the populations and where would be the best place and how would it work the best financially?”

He says the pre-K/6 combination at Phillips seemed odd, and it seems to work putting the sixth grade with the seventh and

eighth graders, citing the age proximity of the students.

Grant Schlueter, the school board’s bonding attorney, also spent a lengthy amount of time going through the bonding issues, boiling the issue down to this: The school board only has about \$25 million left at their disposal in general obligation bonds in which to construct – whether it’s a new school or renovating an existing one.

The board is looking for an option that will be long-term and meet the needs of students for years to come before having to make decisions about the future.

Buster Flowers, transportation and school secu-

rity supervisor, cautioned board members about spending all of the maintenance funds in each of the aforementioned school districts because equipment is either failing or aging. For instance, at J.L. Jones, the air conditioning and heating systems still work off of a chiller/boiler system, and it’s rusting out. Minden High School is looking at having to replace units there too, he says.

Board member Jerry Lott says it’s up to the buildings and mainte-

nance committee to make a recommendation to the board as a whole so the board can make a decision.

“I think it would be safe to say the Minden school board members would be supportive of what you all think would work,” he said. “I was kind of expecting a recommendation to come out of that committee, but apparently, we’re not that far off.”

Kinsey says Rawls said he was “fine” with whatever recommendation was made, but she wanted more community input.


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LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

Bills would steer more money to road projects

MELINDA DESLATTE  
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — A package of bills aimed at steering more money to road repairs and bridge work across Louisiana edged nearer Monday to final legislative passage.

The proposals by Sen. Robert Adley, the Senate transportation committee chairman, are an effort to chip away at the state's \$12

billion backlog of transportation needs while coming up with an additional \$70 million a year to maintain existing roads.

The constitutional amendments would change the rules of the state's "rainy day" fund to help provide more financing for roadwork.

They would steer dollars that currently would go into the rainy day fund instead to transportation work, generating an esti-

mated \$21 million over the next five years for projects — but much more in later years, estimated at as much as \$100 million annually.

The Senate-approved bills won support Monday in the House Appropriations Committee without objection and head next to the full House for consideration. Because they would change the constitution, they would need voter approval.

In a trade-off, one of the proposals would do away with a law to dedicate vehicle sales tax money to road and bridge work. That dedication was supposed to shift an additional \$400 million a year to transportation projects, but the state has never hit



ADLEY

the revenue trigger required to move the money.

Currently, the trigger isn't supposed to be reached until at least 2020, and Adley, R-Benton, said that with Louisiana's ongoing budget problems, taking that much money out of the state general fund "is just not a reality."

Lawmakers have struggled for years to find ways to send more money to road and bridge projects

without raising taxes. Adley's bills were welcomed as a way to achieve that goal. They sailed through the House committee so easily, Adley joked: "I'm not used to having this kind of support. It's kind of making me nervous."

"We're not used to giving that kind of support either," replied Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Fannin, R-Jonesboro.

CITY

Continued from page 1

electric usage and would provide more accurate readings for both. It also helps decrease human error, Davis says.

"Meters would be read by radio (frequency), transmitted it to city hall,

and then it would go directly into our billing system," he said.

Typically, cutoff dates are around the 25th to the 28th day of each month, Davis says. They do not cut off water or electric over the weekend or on a holiday.

The request for proposal is to gather quotes to find out how much a major project like this

would cost, Davis says.

"We're going to wait to see what comes in," he said, "We're getting ready to do the budget for next year, and we would like to have some idea of what it will cost by budget time so we can figure it into the budget if that's what we decide to do."

Other business

■The council voted to

allow 90 days before condemning property located at 127 Church St.;

■Adopted Ordinance No. 1053 – a millage renewal for the Minden Downtown Development District;

■Selected the Minden Press-Herald as the official journal.

Police Report

Police Chief Steve Cropper reported the depart-

ment collected \$18,885 in fines during May.

Cropper went on to say the "Click it or Ticket" campaign was less successful this year, but that was a good thing. "Last year we wrote



CROPPER

over 200 citations. This year, we only wrote 130," he told the council. "To me it's a good thing; it's apparent that more people are wearing their seat beats."

Cropper also told the council that body cameras for the officers are currently being setup and programmed and should in use in the very near future.

SPECHT

Continued from page 1

would feel to open my own business, but it wasn't until after I graduated high school in 2014 that I was given the opportunity to do that," Josh said.

Being a fresh-faced owner of a business who isn't allowed to drink yet can create some perception issues when it comes

to dealing with clients and customers, but Josh said his age hasn't been a negative factor, but more of an asset.

"My age has not really affected my business relationships with customers. I would consider it an advantage because most people think young adults know a lot more about electronics than any other generation," he said.

Moreover, he believes being a young professional

gives him more time to learn so that he can then turn around and put forth into his business now and in the future.

"Being a young entrepreneur gives me the advantage to learn from my mistakes early on and grow from them. I think it is better to start out young and work your way up then to start in your 30's or 40s and try to get something off the ground."

As a Millennial who is

living the life that many of his generation claim to want, Josh said he tries to take the position and image of a leader.

"It allows me to set an example for the generations after me — giving them a sense that it doesn't matter what age you are, if you have the willpower to make what you love successful, then most likely you will be a success," he explained.

In order for Gorlla Tech

to reach its full potential, Josh plans to leverage lessons he has already learned in such a short time. These include excellent customer service and being professional, no matter the situation.

"You are not going to please everyone. But you should strive your best to help everyone," he said. "Also, make clients respect you for who you are and, most importantly, respect the business you have cre-

ated."

So what advice can this young professional offer fellow business owners and entrepreneurs? It's something at the core of his position right now — discover your passion and follow through.

"Find something you love to do and then just do it," Josh advised. "And if your research shows your plan is not going to be successful, then figure out how to make it successful."

CRIME

Continued from page 1

for general speed and running a stop sign. Bond was set at \$4,600.

"Officer Chris Hammontree observed a vehicle run a stop sign at the corner of Bracken and McArther," Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper said. "He attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle, and after he activated his lights and sirens, the vehicle continued for more than three blocks."

Shuler got up to a speed of 35 in a 25 mile per hour zone, but he stopped on

Clerk Street near Howell, according to reports. When Hammontree made contact with Shuler, he reportedly smelled an "overwhelming" odor of suspected marijuana coming from the vehicle.

"At that time, he located one gram of marijuana in a cigarette wrapper next to the emergency brake (inside the vehicle)," Cropper said. "Shuler told him he had two previous convictions on his record for marijuana, which was later confirmed through NCIC."

Shuler was placed under arrest and transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center on the above charges.

Henderson said. "It was a wonderful drive and I am very grateful for their participation."

A total of 177 lives will be saved as a result of the drive Henderson said.

The next scheduled drive is set from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 11 at Minden Medical Center.



BLOOD

Continued from page 1

Henderson says she's amazed at the turnout for the drive.

"The three departments care so much for the Minden community. It brought tears to my eyes to see so many people come out,"

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# OPINION

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PERSPECTIVE

## Freeze it and call the neighbors

Summer is just around the corner and that means it's time for homemade ice cream. So, our Senior Adults at church will be partaking of it this week as we kick off the summer.

Homemade ice cream brings back so many memories from our childhood. Making ice cream was a fairly rare occurrence and many times when we got out the old hand-cranked freezer, neighbors were included to enjoy the delicious frozen treat.

Our parents were the proud owners of one of the first freezers in our family. The gallon and a half container was filled with a sweet mixture of sugar, milk, eggs and vanilla. It was then placed into the large wooden tub and the handle snapped into place. Chipped ice and salt was added alternately to the container as someone began to turn the crank.

Usually the children were allowed to crank at the beginning, but as the mixture started freezing, the cranking got harder. We then turned it over to an adult and it became our job to hold the top in place. This was usually done by placing a towel over the top and one of us sitting on it.

As the ice cream froze, the crank became harder and harder to turn. We knew when it was ready when the handle was almost impossible to turn.

We could hardly wait for the bucket of deliciousness to be opened and our bowls filled. Often, Mama would surprise us with chocolate instead of vanilla. That was always my favorite.

Before the purchase of this new invention, our older relatives used a different technique to make ice cream.

I especially recall going to our aunt's house (she lived less than a mile down the dirt road.) to have ice cream. They would be on the front porch, making two or three gallons.

The mixture was placed in a clean bucket (something like a one gallon Crustene shortening bucket), then placed into a tub of salt and ice. Someone then proceeded to turn the bucket back and forth by holding the bucket bail and turning. This was a time consuming job, but it eventually resulted in a delicious bucket of ice cream.

When our children were small, we purchased one of the, then popular, White Mountain freezers. It was similar to the one we had when I was growing up. We made gallons and gallons of ice cream while they were growing up. The bucket, which was not made of aluminum but some other type of metal, eventually rusted and we had to discard it.

Later, we purchased another hand cranked freezer, made of plastic, before the electric ones became available. We've probably gone through four or five of these electric ones and still use one today.

While teaching, I took the hand-cranked freezer to school for a treat for the children on the last day of school. One child, in wonderment, asked where the ice cream was. He apparently had never seen homemade ice cream. They each had to have a turn cranking and then were ready for their taste of the cold, delicious vanilla ice cream when it was ready.

So, this week we will be pulling out the electric freezer, filling it with a strawberry mixture, and creating a wonderful addition to the other varieties brought by other members of the group. It's always amazing to see the many different flavors and rarely do we have two alike.

Those who don't make ice cream will make contributions of cookies, brownies etc. to go with it.

I'm sure that as the ice cream is dishd up, there will be lots of memories evoked of former ice cream suppers. Many will go back farther than mine, but probably all will involve families and their gathering on the porch to wait for the freezer to stop so their bowls could be filled.

Let me suggest that you pull out the ice cream freezer, fill it with a delicious mixture and call the neighbors.

Fannie Moore is a journalist who lives in Shongaloo where she enjoys writing on a variety of subjects.



FANNIE MOORE

## MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

203 GLEASON STREET, MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055  
318-377-1866 • www.press-herald.com

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DAVID A. SPECHT JR., *President*

GREGG PARKS, *Publisher*  
gparks@press-herald.com

CAROL ANDREWS, *Chief Financial Officer*  
carol@press-herald.com

BRUCE FRANKLIN, *Managing Editor*  
bruce@press-herald.com

BLAKE BRANCH, *Sports*  
blake@press-herald.com

JORDAN WILSON, *Community Editor*  
community@press-herald.com

TELINA WORLEY, *Advertising Manager*  
advertising@press-herald.com

PETE COVINGTON, *Circulation Manager*  
circulation@press-herald.com

DENNIS PHILBAR, *Production Director*  
production@press-herald.com

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PERSPECTIVE

## Texas' best friend: A Louisiana inventory tax

Does the law of economics work the same for cigarettes as it does for inventory?

This question is critical to determine how much damage may be done to Louisiana's private sector economy by the tax increases on employers currently moving through the Legislature.

Most people would readily agree with the notion that the more you tax something, the less inclined people are to buy it.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "The more government takes in taxes, the less incentive people have to work. What coal miner or assembly line worker jumps at the offer of overtime when he knows Uncle Sam is going to take 60 percent or more of his extra pay? Any system that penalizes success and accomplishment is wrong. Any system that discourages work, discourages productivity, discourages economic progress is wrong."

He went on to add, "If, on the other hand, you reduce tax rates and allow people to spend or save more of what they earn, they'll become more industrious; they'll have more incentive to work hard, and money they earn will add fuel to the great economic machine that energizes our national progress. The result: more prosperity for all – and more revenue for government."

Considering Reagan's advice, it is worth looking at the current debate on taxes this legislative session.

Rep. Harold Ritchie has authored legislation, House Bill 119, which would raise the state's cigarette tax by 32 cents. The current state tax on cigarettes is 36 cents, among the lowest rates in the entire country. The fiscal note for the legislation indicates that Louisiana will gain roughly \$68 million in increased tax receipts by raising this tax by 32 cents. This tax increase has not encountered much resistance in the Capitol, only receiving criticism by cer-

tain health groups that want to see the tax increased much more. These groups want the cigarette tax increase to be much higher because they know that the higher the tax, the less likely people will smoke.

The guidance by Reagan three decades ago permeates this entire discussion of taxes. The higher the tax on a product, the less people will want to buy it. In fact, even the drafters of the fiscal note to Ritchie's cigarette tax bill agree with this economic principle.

When discussing previous increases of the cigarette tax, the fiscal note shows revenue collections were lower than previous collections due to the tax increase's negative impact on the consumer's willingness to purchase the product.

The note explains that, "In the last state episode (2002), the new collections level was only about 82 percent of what would be implied from the simple average yield, and only 54 percent with the last federal episode (2009). That is, total tax-paid sales decline when prices increase (in these cases from a tax increase) as consumers avoid the tax by purchasing the product in lower tax locales and reduce real consumption of the product altogether."

What a novel concept. The more something is taxed; the less people want to use it. In fact, the fiscal note states people will even take the trouble to go to a lower taxing locale to purchase a product in order to avoid paying a higher tax. The same economic principle is true for a business, and it is amplified greatly for employers because we now compete in a global economy for investment.

For instance, the Legislature is strongly considering bills to significantly raise taxes on inventory. The current draft of the bills would lead to a reinstatement of almost half of Louisiana's inventory tax. House Bill 629 by Rep. Katrina Jackson would repeal 20 percent of the inventory credit; while House Bill 805 by Rep. Bryan Adams would delay an additional 25 percent of the refundable portion of the inventory tax credit. The inventory tax is widely seen by experts as a disincentive to investment, expansion, capital accumulation and growth.

Louisiana is one of only 13 states that levy an inventory tax, which is why the state has offered an inventory tax credit since 1991. Instead of simply repealing this harmful tax, the state chose to mask its negative impact on the economy for the last few decades with a dollar-for-dollar credit.

Legislative efforts to now drastically increase taxes on inventory will send a strong incentive to employers to scale down their inventory in Louisiana or move their products altogether out of state, which is exactly the wrong message to send to the private sector as it continues recovering from the national recession.

The manufacturing renaissance taking place in Louisiana is exciting but very much in its infancy. These manufacturing investments will require massive amounts of materials and goods to make the finished products that will be sold throughout the world. For generations, these investments will provide countless jobs and opportunities for service and support industries across the state. This growth potential is eerily similar to the economic approach used by Reagan in the 1980s that led to America's resurgence. This exciting potential all depends on Louisiana continuing to build a regulatory and tax environment that welcomes these investments and encourages the types of expansions that are bound to come.

Our main competition to keep these jobs and investments are other states and countries. They do not like one bit that Louisiana has started to win some of these economic battles and they hope that we shoot ourselves in the foot this legislative session by raising taxes on inventory.

Let's not do them that favor. Let's not tear down that economic wall we are building in Louisiana.

Ironically, a new tax on inventory would not only throw sand in the gears of this manufacturing renaissance, it would also tax the very sand and gears used to do so.

Stephen Waguespack is the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the largest and most effective advocacy organization in the state.

PERSPECTIVE

## Don't go

It's graduation time! Have we learned much? No.

College has become a scam.

Some students benefit: those with full scholarships and/or rich parents so they don't go deep into debt, those who love learning for its own sake and land jobs in academia and those who get jobs that require a college credential.

But that's not most students.

Half today's recent grads work in jobs that don't require degrees. Eighty thousand of America's bartenders have bachelor's degrees.

Politicians such as Hillary Clinton promote college by claiming that over a lifetime, college graduates "earn \$1 million more." That statistic is true but utterly misleading. People who go to college are different. They're more likely to have been raised by two parents. They did better in high school. They'd make more money even if they never went go to college.

Economist Bryan Caplan argues that there isn't much evidence that college grads are paid more because they learned anything at college that is valuable to their jobs.

Getting into elite universities and graduating from them is mostly a "signaling" device, he says. It tells employers you're a smart person, so employers can begin teaching you things you really need to know. Employers, not the colleges, turn out to be the ones making students valuable contributors.

This suggests college is more like a hurdle than an investment. It would be better if companies found cheaper ways to screen for talent than four years of college.

Most of America's prestigious universities started out as training centers for the priesthood and ways of confirming your status as part of the upper crust. In many cases, that's still true today. Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize that. But we are.

Now President Obama proposes spending more of your money on "free community college." Senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders goes further, proposing "free tuition" at four-year public colleges.

Of course, "free" just means taxpayers are forced to pay.

This is nuts.

When government subsidizes services, people supplying those services get wasteful. Colleges now spend millions on manicured lawns and fancy gyms.

A University of Missouri admissions officer bragged to my TV show crew about the university's "day spa" and said when it comes to recruiting students, "more important than reading, writing and arithmetic" is giving "our Tigers spring break every time they step into the student recreation complex."

I'm happy that Missouri's students like their luxurious gym, but I don't want to help pay for it. If the school thinks its "day spa" is crucial for recruiting, let them sucker their own alumni into making voluntary contributions for it. Leave taxpayers alone.

Government subsidies encourage students who don't belong in college to go anyway. Many don't graduate, feel bad about themselves and end up deep in debt. The subsidies also invite schools to increase the cost of tuition.

Democrats complained we need Obamacare because health care costs "were skyrocketing." But while the cost of health care rose 296 percent over the past 30 years, college tuition rose 553 percent. College is now a grotesque spending bubble, funded by government, that's about to burst.

Law professor Glenn Reynolds, author of "The Education Apocalypse," writes, "The rapid increase in college tuition began just about exactly the time the federal government started helping to subsidize college ... (Y)ou don't want to engage in subsidies that make universities more bloated and more inefficient."

But that's what Obama and Sanders propose to do.

A more compassionate move would be to warn people that college is not as valuable as colleges advertise themselves to be.

PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel encourages students to escape the college trap by paying them \$100,000 not to go to college and instead to found their own capitalist ventures.

If we really want to build a better future and not just keep going through the same old motions, experiments like that are a much smarter idea than throwing more money at the college bubble.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on Fox News and author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed."



JOHN STOSSEL

## Around Town

Share your events with the community. Send your events to [community@press-herald.com](mailto:community@press-herald.com), fax them to 377-1866, over the phone by calling 377-1866 or in person at our offices located at 203 Gleason St. in Minden.

### June 2, 2015

Tillman Church of God in Christ will be holding their Vacation Bible School June 2-5 from 6:30 until 8 p.m. nightly for ages 2 - Adults at 972 Tillman Church Road. For more information contact Juanita at 377-3205.

### June 3, 2015

Just Faith COGIC presents it's Annual Spring Revival with guest speaker Reverend Gregory DeLoach June 3-5, 2015 at 210 South Fairview in Minden. Prayer time will start at 7 p.m.. followed by the service at 7:30 nightly.

### June 6, 2015

There will be a workshop on "Christianity vs. Clicktanity" at Egypt Hill Baptist Church at 2617 Old Plain Dealing Road in Plain Dealing. First Lady Ora Rice (from Growing Valley MBC in Minden) will be speaking on the inappropriate use of social media as it relates to bullying/suicide, drug use, and academic failure.

Pringle Place Cemetery Association will meet Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 8 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church at 1978 Highway 531 in Minden.

### June 14, 2015

Carter Chapel C.M.E. Church will be holding their Annual Homecoming Service Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 3 P.M at 3354 Franklin Road in Heflin, Louisiana. They will also be holding Revival Services June 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. The speaker for all services will be Pastor Rodney Williams from King Solomon Baptist Church in Sibley.

## EDUCATION IN WEBSTER



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ties through charitable giving, volunteerism, sponsorships and civic leadership.

The company recently donated \$3,500 to Michelle Finley, Assistant Principal at Lakeside High School. The funds will be used to sponsor a College and Career Readiness program.

Pictured above is Tommy Pearson,

ConocoPhillips Production Supervisor; Jane Sutton, ConocoPhillips Production Associate; Melissa Reeme, ConocoPhillips Production Associate; Cathy Durain, ConocoPhillips Production Associate; Glenda Allums, ConocoPhillips SAP Associate; and Michelle Finley, Lakeside High School Assistant Principal.

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# SPORTS

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## SPORTS briefs

### BASEBALL LSU tops UNCW, will face ULL

BATON ROUGE, La. - Sophomore left-hander Jared Poche' nearly mirrored freshman Alex Lange's pitching gem with a six-hit, 2-0 shutout of UNC Wilmington on Monday afternoon to give the LSU baseball team its 21st NCAA Regional Championship.

Poche' (8-1) had a career-best eight strikeouts and finished off the Tigers' three-game sweep of the four-team, double-elimination regional at Alex Box Stadium, Skip Bertman Field that included several rain delays and schedule adjustments.

At 1:09 a.m. Sunday, Most Outstanding Player, Lange, polished off a similar six-hit complete-game shutout of UNCW by the same score (2-0) to put the Tigers in today's championship game.

LSU pitchers threw consecutive shutouts for the first time in the program's 190-game NCAA postseason history.

Following a two-out double in the top of the ninth by UNCW's Corey Dick, LSU's Parker Bugg relieved Poche' to get a strikeout of the potential game-tying run and earn his third save of the season.

"First of all, I'd like to congratulate North Carolina Wilmington on a tremendous season," said LSU coach Paul Mainieri. "They've got a classy group of kids and an outstanding coach in Mark (Scalf), and they have a good ball club. They were scary. They were a scary offensive lineup, and I think that just goes to show you just how great Lange was the other night and Jared was today. To shut that team down two games in a row between our pitching and our defense was really amazing to see."

Poche' had this to say. "I felt good," Poche' said. "About the fourth inning things kind of got out of whack. I got six balls in a row, and I've got to give a little bit of credit to (LSU catcher Kade) Scivicque. He kind of helped me out mechanically, and I was able to locate my fastball and curveball on both sides of the plate."

"I'd say I had good bite on my curveball, and I was able to locate it on both sides of the plate. I was able to get some swings and misses."

The Tigers scored a pair of unearned runs in the bottom of the second inning off Seahawks starter Justin Crump (1-2). With two outs, Andrew Stevenson reached on a fielding error by Dick and advanced to second on a balk. Chris China's double down the left field line scored Stevenson from second, and China came home on a single by Jake Fraley.

Both LSU and UNCW left six on base, as the Tigers' pitching held the Seahawks to 1-for-25 batting with runners on base in its past two games.

# LITTLE LEAGUE BACK ON THE DIAMOND

## BLAKE BRANCH *blake@press-herald.com*

### AA The Exterminators 1 Lil Soldiers 0

Cade Vining led the Exterminators with a pair of hits, followed by Connor Williams, Ross Hammett, Gavyn Davis and Gavin Harris with base hits.

For the Lil Soldiers, Brandon Davis and Jonathan Bryant led the way with base hits.

### Alpha Energy 4 Roughneck Rentals 1

Hunter Sutton led Alpha with a double and single. Cadence Tims also had a double for Alpha, followed by Hayden Maddox with two hits and Drake Lewis with a base hit.

Zander Rowell had two hits for Roughneck Rentals, followed by Chris Frazier, Gavin Davis, Rion Coker and Braxton Glover with base hits.

### Wonder Boys 16 Elm St. Dental 2

Landy Huddleston had three hits, one of them a home run, to lead the Wonder Boys. Bryson Ranger and Jaxon Smith both had big nights with a double and single, while Reagan Coyle, Easton Sanders and Brody Bower all had three base hits. Kevin Berry, Gaige Machen and Luke Butcher added base hits.

Copeland Cupples led Elm St. Dental with two hits, followed by Kennedy Burns, Ethan Turner, Dawson Day and Seth Mangrum with base hits.

### Bandits 6 Timberland 2

Wyatt Whorton doubled and homered in a huge effort for the Bandits, followed by Devery Moore, Brian Williams III, Everonte Williams, Lucas Whitten, Tanner Johnson and Spencer

Brantley with base hits.

Jaylan Hawkins led Timberland with two hits, while Abram Jordan smashed a base hit. Jaiden Franklin and Nolan Still added base hits as well.

### AAA Lions Club 17 Regulators 4

Brandon Winston, Dayton Sims, Bryce Powell, Ethan Latour, Chase Sentell and Caleb Condit all had base hits for Lions Club. Brandon Winston struck out six batters on the mound for Lions Club and Dayton Sims tossed two solid innings.

Nolan Garms had the only hit for the Regulators, while Chase Hammonds struck out four batters.

### Apaches 18 Alpha Energy 6

Landry Powell had three base hits to lead the Apaches, followed by Jakobe Jackson with a double and Maddox Mandino, Garrett Brownd and Cason Clemons with base hits.

Bradley Dick had the only hit for Alpha on the night.

### Dixie Youth MPC Bulldogs 14 Rangers 2

Jonathan Parkerson tripled and Carson Parker doubled to lead the Bulldogs. Nick Mercer and Jackson Mayfield each had two hits, followed by Grady Brasher, Noel Howell and Adam Culpepper with hits. Parker also struck out eight batters.

Landon Hopkins had two hits for the Rangers, followed by Mason Harper with a double. Parker Cupples and Andrew Fegley each added a base hit.

### Minden Athletic 13 Braves 2

Hayden Engel blasted a home run to lead Minden Athletic. De'Mareya Howard doubled and singled, while Cameron Combs and Blaine Sparks added hits to round out the offense.

Hayden Engel also struck out 10 batters on his way to a no-hitter for Minden Athletic.

Connor Dunfey and Grayson Lamar each struck out four batters for the Braves.

### Dixie Boys Glenbrook 13 Minden Elite 2

Nick Mourad led the way with a pair of doubles for Glenbrook, followed by Beau Branch with three singles. Trevor McLean and Cade Clemons both bashed doubles and Haynes Mandino added a single for Glenbrook.

Treyton Butler and Kenneth Gipson had the only hits for Minden Elite. Hunter Wilkes struck out nine batters for the Elite.

### Lakeside 3 Farm Bureau 6

Wesley Dennis and Brittain Ranger had two hits each for Farm Bureau, while Joseph Kidd added a single. Stone Rasbury had a double to round out Farm Bureau's attack.

Zannon Taylor and Krystopher Stewart had the only base hits for Lakeside.

### Darlings Blaze 5 Dirt Divas 6

Lainey Mercer, Colby Hollis and Vivian Still all doubled and singled to lead the Dirt Divas. Rebecca Mosley, Sara Beth Culpepper, Hadley Haynes, Mattie Fowler and Gracie Shuab added hits.

Addie Monk led Blaze with a triple and single, followed by Audrie Teutsch with two hits and Hallie Harmon, Paiton Levesque and Brooklyn Womack added base hits.

### Angels Cooksey's Tax 4 Mark Dunn Tigers 5

Piper Stephens led the way for the Tigers by blasting a double, followed by



Press-Herald Photo/Blake Branch

Gracelyn Pepper and Ashlee Banks with base hits. Pepper struck out six batters on the mound.

Lillian Jolly and Hilary Bates had the only base hits for Cooksey's.

### Ponytails Gotshall Girls 3 Sky Rangers 14

Noint Scott had a double and Kenya Harris singled to lead the Rangers.

Crystakynn McDaniel and Bridget Morgan had the only hits for Gotshall.

### CWW Fire 20 Subway 5

Hannah Mosley had a double and single, followed by Francis Robinson, Laney Taylor, Hollie Payne, Kaylee Davis and Sierra Franklin with base hits. Mosley also struck out eight batters.

Reagan Lee had the only hit for Subway, a double.

### Belles First United Methodist 13 Pink Pratique 12

Sela Cooper doubled and singled to lead First Methodist and Erin Lee added a single. Audrey Plants struck out six batters in the circle.

Shamorrow Whiting doubled and singled for Pink Pratique, Ty Asia Shehee and Zimya Manning doubled and Nancy Silva and Quesha Jackson had base hits.

### Glenbrook 9 Haughton Heat 3

Kara Bryce doubled and singled, Aubrie Dickson had two singles and Kelly Murph, Amber Lovitt and Emma Earnhardt added singles. Aubrie Dickson struck out seven batters for Glenbrook.

Myers and Ward had base hits for Haughton.

## LOUISIANA OUTDOORS Huckleberries: The essence of wild bounty

Look up "huckleberry" on the web and you'll see what know-everything Wikipedia has to say....The name 'huckleberry' is a North American variation of the English dialectal name variously called 'hurtleberry' or 'whortleberry'."

Whatever. All I know is that these little dark purple orbs can be converted into the most delectable pie this side of the Pearly Gates.

It all started with me growing up out on the rural route when my mom would hand my brother and me a coffee can each with orders to go find some huckleberries. When we returned, hopefully with enough to meet her satisfaction, she would magically transform these little wild berries into the most delicious cobbler I ever ate, hands down. If there was a bumper crop of berries, she'd simmer a batch of huckleberry jam. Slather that on one of her hot buttered biscuits and you'd choke back tears it was so good.

Wikipedia provided additional information on these wonderful little berries..."Huckleberries can be processed into numerous food products including juice, tea, soup, syrup, jam, pudding, candy, pie, muffin,

pancakes and salad dressing.

"Traditional medical applications include treating pain, heart ailments and infections." Sounds like huckleberries are nature's wonder food and drug.

As the years melted away, I had forgotten all



HARRIS

about huckleberries and failed to notice that there were half a dozen huckleberry bushes around the perimeter of my yard. It all started coming back to me and I picked some, explaining to my wife what they were. Using the same recipe she uses when making any fruit cobbler, she sent me hurtling back to my growing-up years with a beautiful and delicious pie just like the ones my mom used to make.

Here's the recipe Kay uses for huckleberry cobbler.

### HUCKLEBERRY COBBLER

2-3 cups huckleberries  
¼ cup water  
1 ½ cups sugar  
3 tbs flour



Courtesy Photo/Glynn Harris

1/8 tsp. salt  
½ to 1 stick Butter

(Use your own pastry recipe or buy crust already prepared.)

Roll pastry large enough to cover the bottom of a 9x13x3 inch baking dish. Put a solid piece of pastry over the bottom of the dish and bake at 375 degrees until slightly brown and dry.

Roll out another 1/3 of the pastry and cut into strips and bake strips on a pastry sheet until brown and crisp. Roll out the last 1/3 of pastry, cut

into strips and set aside.

Mix berries with 1 cup sugar, water and butter in saucepan and cook until tender.

Mix flour and the remaining ½ cup sugar and add to fruit mixture. Stir over medium heat until thickened.

Pour half of fruit mixture over the bottom crust. Layer the browned strips over the fruit. Pour the remaining half of the fruit over the strips and lattice the unbaked strips on top of the pie. Dot with additional butter.

Bake at 375 degrees

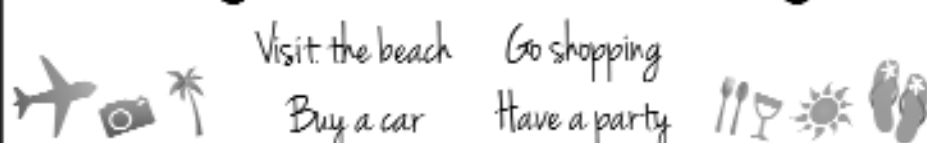
until brown and bubbly.

There's one little deviation on Kay's recipe and serving suggestions that needs a bit of correction. Her original recipe called for the pie to be served with a dollop of vanilla ice cream....not just any vanilla ice cream; she specified BLUE BELL Homemade Vanilla.

Dang it, here come the tears again. Sorry.

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# BALANCING LOUISIANA'S BUDGET

Key piece of budget-balancing plan meets resistance in House

**MELINDA DESLATTE**  
Associated Press

Lawmakers in the House have stalled a key piece of legislation sought by Gov. Bobby Jindal as part of the state's budget-balancing plan, a bill designed to allow the governor to maintain his record against tax increases.

The House Ways and Means Committee canceled its planned Monday meeting to consider the bill by Sen. Jack Donahue to create a new higher education tax credit as a complicated way to let Jindal claim he hasn't raised taxes to close next year's budget shortfall.

"I plan to reschedule after giving Sen. Donahue and the administration time to address questions that have arisen," Committee Chairman Joel Robideaux, R-

Lafayette, said in a statement.

Robideaux sent a three-page list of questions about the bill to the Jindal administration and Donahue, R-Mandeville.

The delay raises questions about whether the House will pass the Senate-backed bill and could upend ongoing budget negotiations with fewer than two weeks remaining in the legislative session.

But hanging on to the tax credit proposal gives the House leverage in the budget haggling, a point acknowledged by Robideaux. In an email accompanying the list of questions, Robideaux described it as "prudent" for the House to see what the Senate does with a House-approved package of budget and tax bills before "debating the merits" of Donahue's bill.

Donahue said he's working to get the questions answered and thinks the bill can be salvaged.

"I think it's an important bill for the budget negotiations," he said Monday.

Without passage of the tax credit bill, tax changes used to balance next year's \$24 billion budget face a veto threat from Jindal.

Some lawmakers, particularly Democrats, have criticized the proposal as an unnecessary sham to protect the Republican governor's White House ambitions.

Jindal, building a likely presidential campaign, won't support any tax changes he — or national anti-tax activist Grover Norquist — considers a net tax increase.

With a \$1.6 billion budget hole next year, lawmakers and the governor have acknowledged they must find ways to drum up new dollars for the budget to keep from devastating higher education and public health care programs.

The House didn't bother meeting Jindal's criteria with its budget-balancing plan, which involved \$615 million in tax hikes and scaled-back tax breaks. Senators, however, are trying to meet the complex set of parameters set by Jindal about what types of tax changes he's willing to support, to avoid a veto of the

financing plans for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

That's where Donahue's higher education tax credit bill kicks in.

The measure would create the Student Assessment for a Valuable Education, or SAVE, tax credit. The proposal would involve raising a new "fee" on college students. The students wouldn't actually pay the fee because it would be covered by the state through the tax credit, paid directly to colleges and offset with tax increases elsewhere, like a cigarette tax hike.

It's essentially a pass-through that doesn't provide any net new revenue to the state, but that is used for Jindal to claim an offset to other tax increases so he can say the state didn't raise taxes to balance the budget.

Higher education leaders, worried they face budget cuts if lawmakers and the Jindal administration can't work out a tax deal, are pushing for the SAVE tax credit.

Louisiana's higher education commissioner, Board of Regents and presidents of the four college system issued a statement calling the Donahue bill "a viable solution that will reduce the fiscal needs for higher education and positively impact the future prosperity of this state."

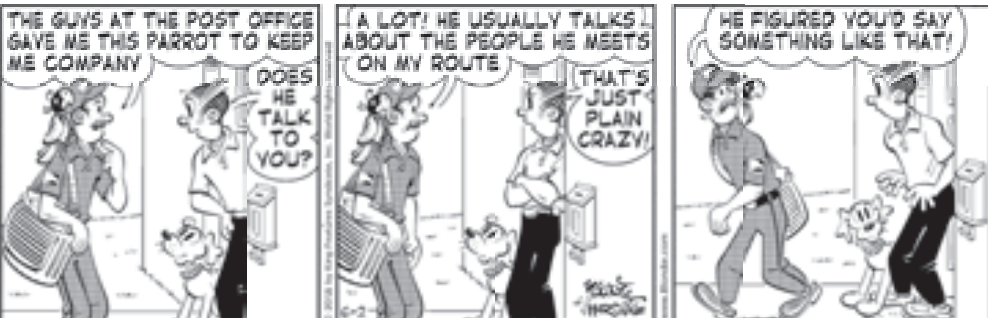
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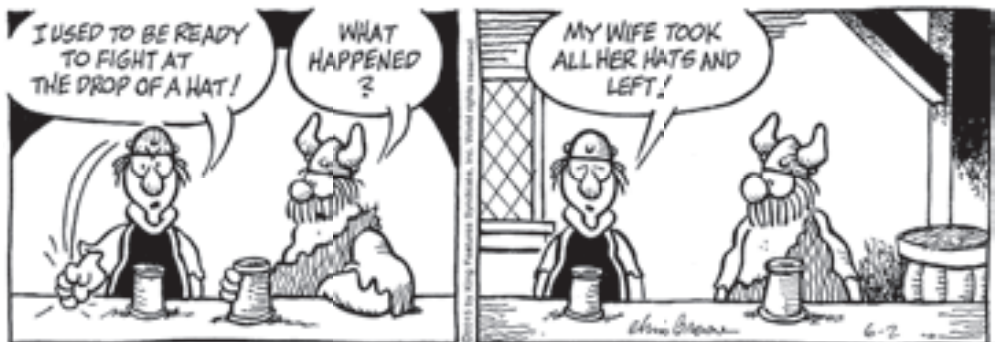
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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing to review the proposed amended budget of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court for 2014/2015 will be held in the office of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court at 10:00 A.M. on June 15, 2015. Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget during normal business hours.

A summary of the proposed budget of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court office is as follows:

**WEBSTER PARISH CLERK OF COURT SUMMARY OF AMENDED BUDGET 2014 / 2015**

Anticipated Fund Balance July 1, 2014 \$ 3 7 6 , 9 0 0  
Anticipated Revenue \$ 1 , 2 5 1 , 2 6 5

Total Available \$ 1 , 6 2 8 , 2 6 5

Anticipated Expenditures for Operations \$ 1 , 3 2 5 , 3 5 0

Anticipated Fund Balance June 30, 2015 \$ 3 0 2 , 8 1 5

June 2, 2015  
Minden Press-Herald

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

A public hearing to review the proposed budget of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court for 2015/2016 will be held in the office of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court at 10:00 A.M. on June 15, 2015. Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget during normal business hours.

A summary of the proposed budget of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court office is as follows:

**WEBSTER PARISH CLERK OF COURT SUMMARY OF BUDGET 2015 / 2016**

Anticipated Fund Balance July 1, 2015 \$ 3 5 3 , 1 6 5  
Anticipated Revenue \$ 1 , 2 3 4 , 5 7 5

Total Available \$ 1 , 5 8 7 , 7 4 0

Anticipated Expenditures for Operations \$ 1 , 2 9 3 , 2 2 5

Anticipated Fund Balance June 30, 2016 \$ 2 9 4 , 5 1 5

June 2, 2015  
Minden Press-Herald

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377-1866**



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Aviation Estate Auction, aircraft, crop dusters, engines, vehicles, equipment and much more. Sat., May 16 at 10AM, Vivian Airport, Vivian, Louisiana. For photos, lists, terms, and to place absentee bids, click on www.lawlerauction.com. Danny Lawler, Auctioneer, La. Lic. # 1201. (318) 929-7003.

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Switch & Save Event from DirecTV! Packages starting at \$19.99/mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX FREE GENIE HD/DVR Upgrade! 2015 NFL Sunday

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### Miscellaneous

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A man wakes up after sleeping under an **ADVERTISED** blanket on an **ADVERTISED** mattress, shaves with an **ADVERTISED** razor, brushes his teeth with **ADVERTISED** toothpaste, washes with **ADVERTISED** soap, puts on **ADVERTISED** clothes, drinks a cup of **ADVERTISED** coffee, drives to work in an **ADVERTISED** car and then refuses to **ADVERTISE** believing it doesn't **PAY**.

Later, when his business is failing he **ADVERTISES** it for sale in the...

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### CRYPTOQUIP

K B I W M Y H N P M Q K H P B  
L W E A M W M Y U W N Y Y V N Y  
J N P U L Q E Q J Z W M M W L Y . Q Y ' M  
Y U U L Q J V E U L K B I A Z .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMPANY CREATED BY A UNIVERSITY TEST SUPERVISOR AND COUNTRY SINGER GLEN: PROCTOR AND CAMPBELL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

### CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
1 Out of the storm  
5 "Little Women" woman  
9 Silent  
12 Lion's share  
13 Turkish title  
14 "SNL" alum  
15 Gasteyer  
16 Janitor's gadget  
17 Feminine side  
18 Charged bits  
19 Impres-sively high  
21 "Saturday Night Fever" venue  
24 Repast  
25 Some deer  
26 Online talk site  
30 \$ dispenser  
31 Actress Jessica et al.  
32 Path

**DOWN**  
33 Post-WWII birthrate increase  
35 Nuisance  
36 After all?  
37 Coun-try star  
38 Brooks  
39 Memo-rable mission  
40 "— she blows!"  
42 Crib  
43 "The Today Show"  
44 legal analyst  
48 Fond du —, Wis.  
49 Lab vessel  
50 Met melody  
51 Before  
52 Hibernia  
53 ShriI bark  
**DOWN**  
1 Pump up the volume  
2 CNN alum  
3 Dobbs  
4 Curvy character  
5 Morals  
6 Farm building  
7 Holly-wood clasher  
8 Yet, in verse  
9 Villages  
10 Carrier of  
11 One  
12 Much more than one  
16 Greet the villain  
20 Rowing need  
21 Colorless  
22 Teeny bit  
23 Modicum  
24 Sir coun-terpart  
26 Coagu-late  
27 Showtime rival  
28 Tobacco oven  
29 Legend  
31 Exculpate  
34 Sweet potato  
35 Bet the previous winnings  
37 Chatter away  
38 Compe-tent  
39 Story-teller  
40 Despot  
41 Robust  
44 Sundial hour  
45 Raw rock  
46 Lubricant  
47 Chart

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

I	D	E	S		A	G	E		C	A	L	M
F	O	G	H	O	R	N	S		A	R	I	A
S	H	O	R	T	C	U	T		M	E	E	T
				I	T	S		R	H	E	S	U
C	E	L	L	O		S	O					
A	M	Y	L		P	A	G	E	A	N	T	
P	U	N		S	A	G	E	S		E	A	T
		S	N	O	W	M	A	N		M	A	X
			R	A	P	S			E	E	R	I
L	E	N	G	T	H		A	N	T			
A	R	E	A		L	O	N	G	H	A	I	R
M	I	E	N		E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y
B	E	D	S		T	A	W		L	A	M	E

**Yesterday's answer 6-2**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27					28	29
30				31						32		
33			34						35			
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42				43	44					45	46	47
48				49					50			
51				52					53			

# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Herman

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